In the Drawings:

Please amend Figures 3 and 6 as shown in red ink and attached herewith under separate cover.

REMARKS

Claims 1-179 are pending in the application. Claims 1-179 are rejected. Independent claims 1 and 108 have been amended. Dependent claims 3, 11, 15, 17, 21, 38, 59-61, 80, 109, 113-116, 134, 152, 157, 162, 166, 174, and 176 have been amended. The examiner objected to the drawings due to misspellings in Fig 3 and Fig 6. Corrected replacement pages in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are herein submitted.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 was objected to because the examiner asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would not classify "multimedia digital content" as a type of document. Claim 3 is amended in the current amendment to read "A method according to claim 1, wherein said digital content is multimedia digital content."

Claims 166 and 174 are objected to because of the misspelling of the word copying. The claims are amended to reflect the correct spelling of copying.

Claim 176 is objected to because of the misspelling of the word effect. The correct spelling of effect (affect) is seen in the amended claim 176.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 11, 15, 17, 21, 59-61, 80, 108, 109, 113-116, 134, 162, 166 contain the word "relatively". As such, the examiner rejected the claims as being indefinite. The claims are amended as seen above without the word "relatively".

Claim 38 was rejected on the basis of the phrase "sufficiently similar". The claim has been amended and the word "sufficiently" has been removed.

Claims 152 and 157 recited the limitation "interfaces" without proper antecedent. The claims have been amended as above to provide for proper antecedent.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 62, 63-88, 108, 109-133, 152-161, 163-165 are rejected as being anticipated by Flavin (US 6,219,788). Claim 108 is an independent claim. Claim 62 has now been made dependent on claim 1. Claims 62, 80, 108, 109, 113-116, 152, and 157 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration of this rejection in view of the above amendments and the following explanations is respectfully requested.

The present invention describes a method for secure distribution of digital content to an untrusted environment, through the use of a trusted environment, particularly a video rendering unit.

The independent claim 108 has been amended as such:

A method for secure distribution of digital content comprising the steps of:

transferring said digital content to an untrusted environment;

using a relatively trusted environment within said untrusted environment, said trusted environment being operable to produce a rendered version of said digital content and further being comprised of mechanisms to restrict tampering thereof .

The amended claim emphasizes the fact that the trusted environment, namely the "descrambling and video renderer" as seen in Fig 1 and 2, serves not only to descramble the information, but most pertinently to produce a rendered or bitmap version of the digital content. There is no storage of the information in the descrambling device to allow for tampering from a foreign source. That is to say, the fact that the descrambling device outputs the image and does not contain the information as an accessible file, restricts and actually prevents any redistribution of the digital content by the content's intended final recipient. In other words, the rendered version of the digital content produced at the descrambling unit is not a reproducible file, and as such this is what prevents its redistribution. Additionally, the last part of the claim states , " *further being comprised of mechanisms to restrict tampering thereof* ." which emphasizes that the trusted environment is non-tamperable by not allowing access to the environment other than for the purpose of rendering the data to a display etc.

Flavin describes a computer watchdog system that monitors and controls distribution content sent from producers, through distributors, to subscribers.

The computer watchdog system acts to ensure the just execution of agreements between a producer of content and a distributor of content. Flavin describes a method to monitor when and to what destination content is distributed from a distributor's server. Additionally, the method gives directions to the distributor regarding the distribution. This monitoring is recorded for use by the parties involved, namely the producer, distributor, and subscriber.

However, no mention of a rendered version to prevent redistribution is mentioned or even hinted at by Flavin. Indeed, Flavin has no method to restrict illegal redistribution of digital content by the content's intended final recipient, but can only monitor the distribution of the content by an intended distributor. Flavin's watchdog is indeed a trusted environment, but applies no rendering to any image data entering it. In fact, it merely protects the data from tampering by outside sources.

Thus, the recitation of currently amended independent claim 108 is not anticipated by the teaching of Flavin and therefore it is respectfully submitted that the present amendment completely overcomes the Examiner's rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

The dependant claims mentioned under this section are believed to be allowable as being dependent on an allowable main claim

Claims Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-41 and 59-61 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeung et al (US 6,668,246) in view of Flavin et al. (Patent No. US 6,219,788). Independent claim 1 has been amended. Dependant claims 3, 11, 15, 17, 21, 38, 59-61 have been amended. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention describes a method for secure distribution of digital content to an untrusted environment, through a trusted environment producing a rendered version of data inputs.

The independent claim 1 has been amended as such:

A method for secure distribution of digital content to an untrusted environment of an intended recipient of said digital content, comprising the steps of:

constructing a ~~relatively~~ trusted environment within said untrusted environment;

constructing at least two digital inputs, said digital inputs ~~are~~ being operable in combination in order to ~~reproduce~~ produce a rendered version of said digital content;

transferring digital media to said ~~relatively~~ trusted environment such that each of said inputs is transmitted via a different path, and;

combining said inputs within said trusted environment in order to ~~reproduce~~ produce said rendered ~~output~~ version of digital content, said trusted environment otherwise preventing access to said digital inputs.

The examiner's attention is called to the amendment regarding a "rendered version" of said digital content. As explained in the above section, the two digital inputs are utilized in combination to produce a rendered version to the user's screen, without actually saving any accessible file. Therefore, the digital content is reproduced at a presumably untrusted user's site. Nonetheless, the data is free from possible tampering. This is because the data format that is produced at the rendering box in Fig 1 and 2, is in a format that does not enable tampering or any reproduction whatsoever.

In contrast, Yeung speaks of a content distribution system where two levels of content protection are used. Both levels involve scrambling mechanisms, the first data scrambling and the second visual or perceptual scrambling. Certainly, no rendered version of data is spoken of or hinted at. As the examiner stated, Yeung does not even contain a relatively trusted environment. Although Flavin does disclose such a trusted environment in the form of a watchdog, as explained in section 102, no rendered version is output by Flavin or produced anyway in Flavin's patent.

Thus, claim 1 is clearly novel and inventive. The remaining claims mentioned regarding claim rejection under 35 USC 103 are believed to be allowable as being dependent on an allowable main claim.

All of the matters raised by the Examiner have been dealt with and are believed to have been overcome.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable over the cited reference. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martin D. Moynihan
Registration No. 40,338

Date: March 20, 2006

Enclosures:

A Petition for Two Month Extension of Time;
A Letter To Chief Draftsman;
2 Sheets Of Annotated Marked-Up Drawings;
A Formal Drawings Transmittal Sheet;
10 Sheets Of Formal Drawings.

IAP53 MAR 20 2006 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

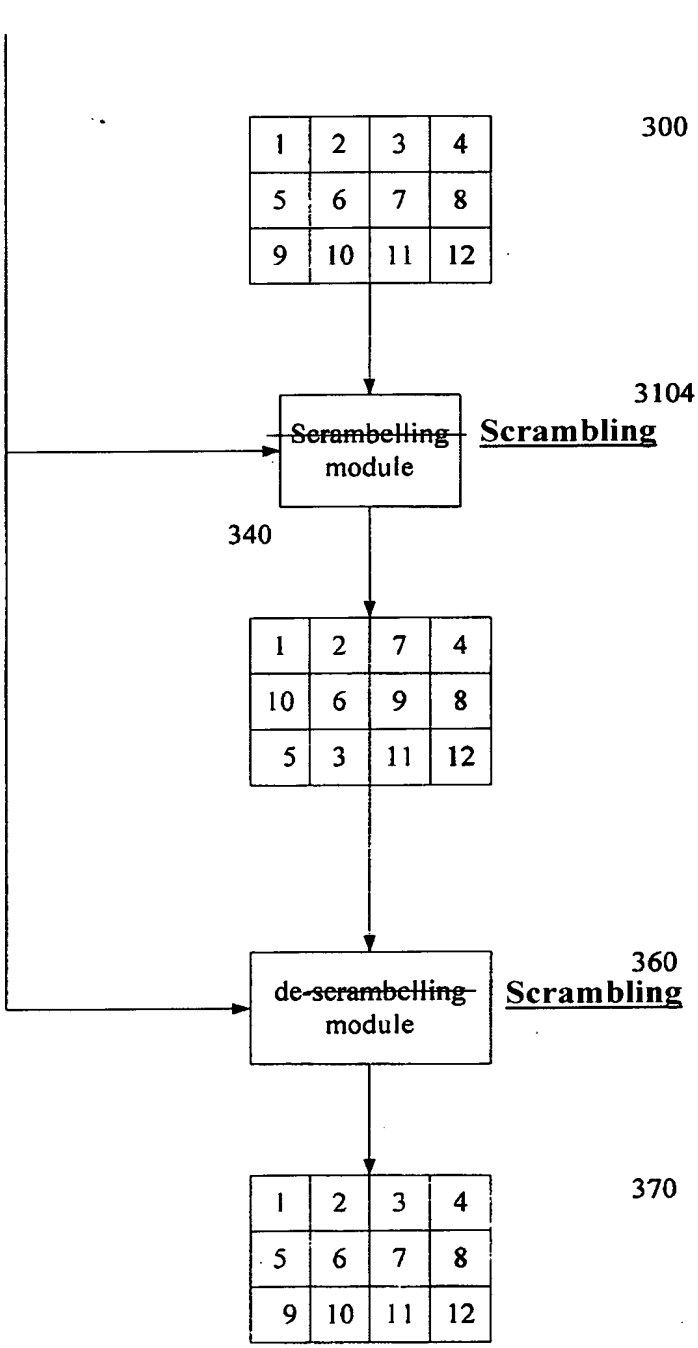

Fig. 3

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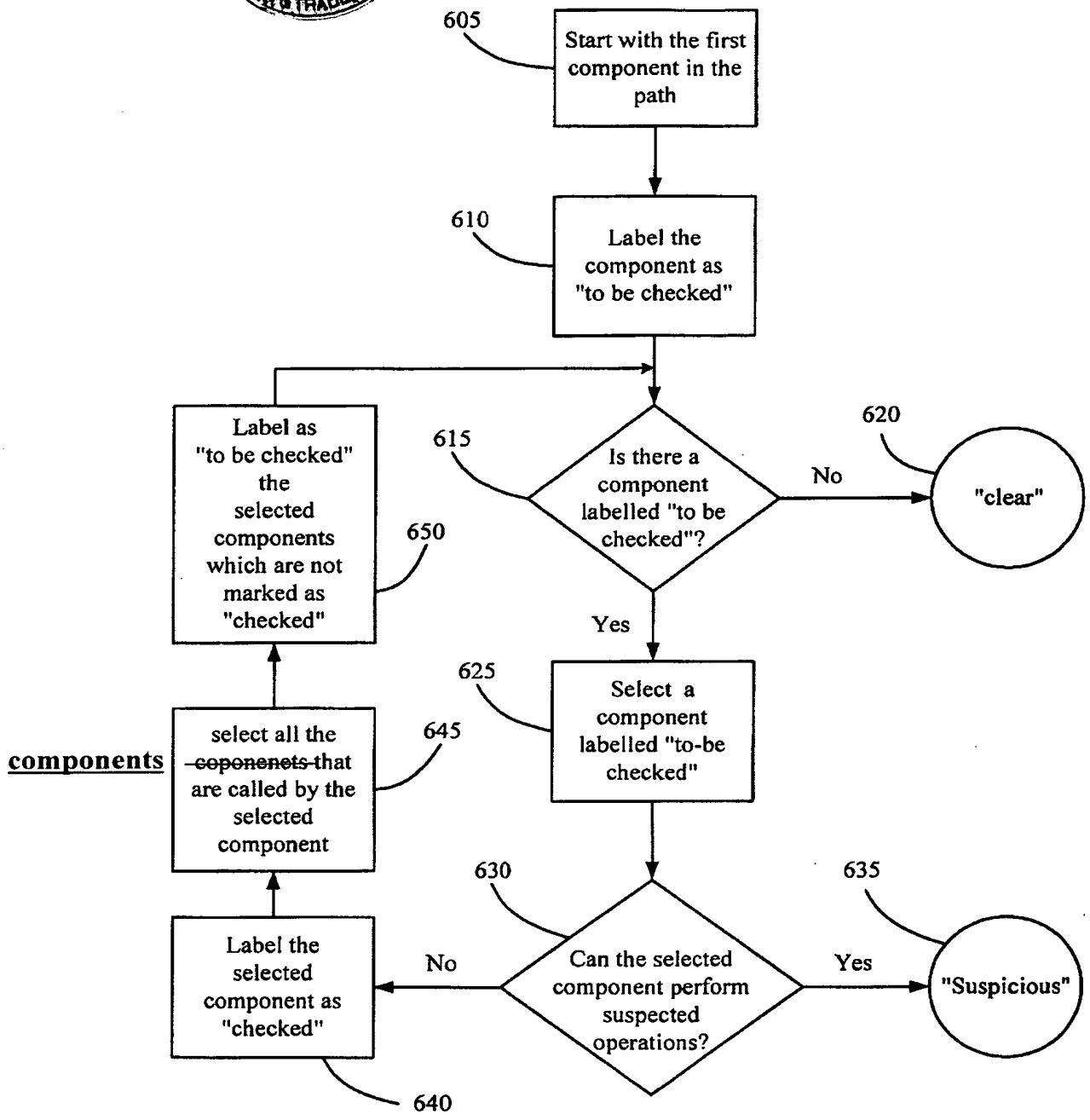

Fig. 6